



Tumba rhythm in Aruba's Carnival

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

MONDAY:

ANDERSON BAHAMON
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

THURSDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.



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Trump says he wants to keep Hasset in White House, clouding Fed chair selection

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday said he would like to keep his top economic adviser, Kevin Hassett, at the White House rather than potentially nominate him to replace Jerome Powell as chair of the Federal Reserve. "I actually want to keep you where you are, if you want to know the truth," Trump said at a White House event, when he saw Hassett, director of the National Economic Council, in the audience. "I just want to thank you, you were fantastic on television the other day." Trump's comments, while not clearly definitive, have upended expectations around the extensive search the White House has undergone to find a new Fed chair, one of the most powerful financial positions in the world. The president's remarks have boosted the prospects for Kevin Warsh, a former Fed governor and already a top contender for the position. Hassett has generally been seen as the front-runner in the race to replace Powell because he has worked for



Director of the National Economic Council Kevin Hassett walks to the White House after doing an interview Friday, Jan. 9, 2026, in Washington.

Associated Press

Trump since his first presidential term. Last month, Trump referred to Hassett as a "potential Fed chair." Powell's term as chair will end May 15, though he could take the unusual step of remaining on the board as governor afterward. Trump appointed Powell in 2018 but soon soured on him for raising the Fed's key interest rate that year.

Warsh's candidacy has also likely been boosted by the Justice Department's subpoenas of the Federal Reserve last week, revealed Sunday in an unusually direct video statement by Powell. The Fed chair charged that the subpoenas were essentially punishment for the central bank's refusal to lower interest rates as sharply as Trump would

like. The criminal investigation a first for a sitting Fed chair sparked pushback on Capitol Hill, with many Republican senators dismissing the idea that Powell could have committed a crime. The subpoenas related to testimony Powell gave last June before the Senate Banking Committee that touched on a \$2.5 billion building renovation project.

The backlash has intensified concerns in the Senate, analysts say, that the Trump administration is seeking to undermine the Fed's independence from day-to-day politics. That, in turn, may reduce Hassett's prospects. The brouhaha over the subpoenas is "making it harder to confirm Hassett, who is distinctively close to the president," Krishna Guha, an analyst at investment bank Evercore ISI, wrote in a client note. "Warsh is trusted by Senate Republicans and would be much easier to confirm." Yet Warsh, historically, is known as a "hawk," or someone who traditionally supports higher interest rates to ward off inflation, as opposed to a "dove," or someone who prefers lower borrowing costs to spur hiring and growth. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose Friday, to just above 4.2%, from about 4.17% Thursday. The increase likely reflected a sense that Warsh's chances had improved, and as a result the Fed would be less likely over time to cut rates than under a Hassett chairmanship. □

CIA director meets Venezuela's acting president in Caracas

By **DAVID KLEPPER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — CIA Director John Ratcliffe has traveled to Venezuela to meet with acting President Delcy Rodríguez, becoming the highest-ranking Trump administration official to visit the South American country after the U.S. raid that captured former leader Nicolás Maduro. The meeting Thursday in Caracas, the capital, lasted two hours, according to a U.S. government official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke Friday on condition of anonymity. The official said the meeting came at the urging of President Donald Trump and was meant to demonstrate the desire by the U.S. for a better relationship with Venezuela. It occurred

the same day Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado presented her Nobel Peace Prize medal to Trump at the White House even as he has effectively sidelined her.

Ratcliffe's visit is likely to be seen as another sign of Trump's willingness to work with Rodríguez, who had been Maduro's second in command until the audacious U.S. military operation two weeks ago that spirited

him to the United States to face drug trafficking charges. The visit, which included a small team of American officials and was first reported by The New York Times, was intended to lay the groundwork for additional cooperation between the Trump administration and Venezuela's new leaders, the official said. Ratcliffe discussed potential economic collaboration between the two countries and warned that Venezuela can never again allow the presence of American adversaries, including drug traffickers, the official said. The CIA played a key role in the operation to apprehend Maduro, providing critical intelligence support, as well as mounting an earlier drone strike on a dock

used by cartels, U.S. officials have said. A day after Ratcliffe's visit to Caracas, Machado told reporters in Washington that she was "profoundly, profoundly confident that we will have an orderly transition" to democracy in her country. Machado said she rejected the notion that Trump has chosen to work with Rodríguez over her opposition movement, which is widely believed to have won the 2024 presidential election. Rodríguez used her first state of the union message as acting president Thursday to advocate for opening the crucial state-run oil industry to more foreign investment following the Trump administration's pledge to oversee Venezuelan crude sales. □



CIA Director John Ratcliffe arrives at the U.S. Capitol Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, in Washington, to brief top lawmakers after President Donald Trump directed U.S. forces to capture Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

Associated Press

Senators launch a cross-party effort to end stock trading by lawmakers

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two senators from opposite parties are joining forces in a renewed push to ban members of Congress from trading stocks, an effort that has broad public support but has repeatedly stalled on Capitol Hill.

Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Republican Sen. Ashley Moody of Florida on Thursday plan to introduce legislation, first shared with The Associated Press, that would bar lawmakers and their immediate family members from trading or owning individual stocks.

It's the latest in a flurry of proposals in the House and the Senate to limit stock trading in Congress, lending bipartisan momentum to the issue. But the sheer number of proposals has clouded the path forward. Republican leaders in the House are pushing their own bill on stock ownership, an alternative that critics have dismissed as watered down.

"There's an American consensus around this, not a partisan consensus, that members of Congress and, frankly, senior members of administrations and the White House, shouldn't



Sen. Ashley Moody, R-Fla., speaks during the confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee for Kash Patel, President Donald Trump's choice to be director of the FBI, at the Capitol in Washington, Jan. 30, 2025.

be making money off the backs of the American people," Gillibrand said in an interview with the AP on Wednesday.

Bipartisan support but no consensus

Trading of stock by members of Congress has been the subject of ethics scrutiny and criminal investigations in recent years, with lawmakers accused of using the information they gain as part of their jobs often not known to the public to buy and sell stocks at

significant profit. Both parties have pledged to stop stock trading in Washington in campaign ads, creating unusual alliances in Congress.

The bill being introduced by Gillibrand and Moody is a version of a House bill introduced last year by Reps. Chip Roy, a Republican from Texas, and Seth Magaziner, a Democrat from Rhode Island. That proposal, which has 125 cosponsors, would ban members of Congress from buying or

selling individual stocks altogether.

Republican Rep. Anna Paulina Luna of Florida tried to bypass party leadership and force a vote on the bill. Her push with a discharge petition has 79 of the 218 signatures required, the majority of them Democrats.

House Republican leaders are supporting an alternative bill that would prohibit members of Congress and their spouses from buying individual stocks but

would not require lawmakers to divest from stocks they already own. It would mandate public notice seven days before a lawmaker sells a stock. The bill advanced in committee Wednesday which Luna called "a win" but its prospects are unclear.

Magaziner and other House Democrats, including Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, wrote in a joint statement Wednesday that they "are disappointed that the bill introduced by Republican leadership today fails to deliver the reform that is needed." The Senate bill from Gillibrand and Moody would give lawmakers 180 days to divest their individual stock holdings after the bill takes effect, while newly elected members would have 90 days from being sworn in to divest. Lawmakers would be prohibited from trading and owning certain other financial assets, including securities, commodities and futures.

"The American people must be able to trust that their elected officials are focused on results for the American people and not focused on profiting from their positions," Moody wrote in response to a list of questions from the AP. □

Supreme Court will decide on use of warrants that collect the location history of cellphone users

By MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed Friday to decide the constitutionality of broad search warrants that collect the location history of cellphone users to find people near crime scenes.

The case involves what is known as a "geofence warrant" that was served on Google in a police hunt for a bank robber in suburban Richmond, Virginia. Geofence warrants, an increasingly popular investigative tool, seek location data on every person within a specific location over a

certain period of time.

Police used the information to arrest Okello Chatrue in the 2019 robbery of the Call Federal Credit Union in Midlothian. Chatrue eventually pleaded guilty and was sentenced to nearly 12 years in prison.

Chatrue's lawyers challenged the warrant as a violation of his privacy because it allowed authorities to gather the location history of people near the bank without having any evidence they had anything to do with the robbery. Prosecutors argued that Chatrue had no expectation of privacy because

he voluntarily opted into Google's Location History. A federal judge agreed that the search violated Chatrue's rights, but still allowed the evidence to be used because the officer who applied for the warrant reasonably believed he was acting properly.

The federal appeals court in Richmond upheld the conviction in a fractured ruling. In a separate case, the federal appeals court in New Orleans ruled that geofence warrants violate the Fourth Amendment's ban on unreasonable searches.

The case is expected to be

argued later this year, either in the spring or in Oc-

tober, at the start of the court's next term. □



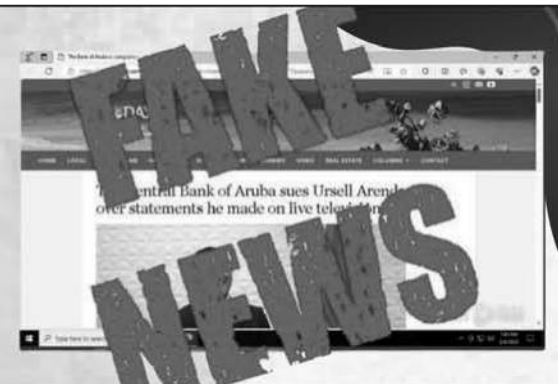
U.S. Supreme Court is seen, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026, in Washington.

Associated Press

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California protester left blind in one eye is among string of violent run-ins with federal agents

By **AMY TAXIN**
Associated Press

A 21-year-old college student who said he was blinded in one eye by a projectile fired by a federal officer during a Southern California protest said he faces a drastically different life now.

Kaden Rummler said in an interview that he was in agonizing pain and underwent an extensive six-hour surgery to his left eye after he was injured at a Jan. 9 protest over the fatal shooting of a woman by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer in Minneapolis. Rummler said he has no depth perception and can no longer drive. Shards of metal and a nickel-sized piece of plastic remain lodged in his skull, his attorney said, and he is considering suing.

"It's going to affect every aspect of my life," said Rummler, who hopes to pursue a career in forestry.

A second demonstrator at the same protest outside a federal immigration building in Orange County told the Los Angeles Times he was also blinded in one eye by



Kaden Rummler, who was injured after being hit with a projectile fired by a federal agent during a protest outside an immigration building in Santa Ana, Calif., poses for a portrait Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026, in Southern California.

Associated Press

a projectile fired by federal agents. Britain Rodriguez, 31, said he was standing on steps outside the immigration building when he was struck in the face.

"I remember hitting the ground and feeling like my eye exploded in my head," Rodriguez told the newspaper. The Department of Homeland Security didn't respond to questions from The Associated Press about what type of projectile was used. Tricia McLaughlin,

assistant secretary for the agency, said in an emailed statement this week that the protesters were violent and that two officers were injured but didn't specify the extent of their injuries. DHS said one demonstrator was taken to the hospital with a cut. McLaughlin confirmed to the Times that was a reference to Rummler and called his injury claims "absurd." Rummler has been charged with a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. One

of his fellow protesters was jailed for several days and has been charged with assaulting, resisting or impeding a federal officer.

Rummler's attorney John Washington said doctors want to know whether the materials in the projectile could be toxic but have been unable to get answers from DHS. Washington said based on their preliminary investigation they believe it was a capsule made from metal and plastic containing pepper spray.

The injuries in California are the latest in a growing number of violent encounters between federal agents and community members during protests over the Trump administration's immigration crackdown.

Federal immigration agents deployed to Minneapolis have used aggressive crowd-control tactics that have become a dominant concern after the deadly shooting of Renee Good. In Santa Ana, California, hundreds of people marched in the streets on Jan. 9 to protest Good's killing. A smaller

group later congregated outside the federal immigration building, shouting expletives through megaphones about ICE, according to video taken by OC Hawk, a group that films breaking news in Orange County.

The video shows a handful of officers in riot gear standing guard and urging demonstrators to move back. An orange cone is later seen rolling onto a plaza outside the building, and authorities begin firing crowd-control projectiles as they walk toward the crowd.

In the video, an officer is seen grabbing a protester by the arm and Rummler and a few others are seen stepping forward shouting in response. An officer then fires a crowd-control weapon, striking Rummler from several feet away. Rummler grabs his face and falls to the ground, and an officer grabs him by the shirt and drags him backward across the ground toward the building, the video shows. Later, video appears to show him face down on the ground being handcuffed. □



A pharmacist gives a patient a flu shot in Miami on Sept. 9, 2025.
Associated Press

By **MIKE STOBBE**
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. flu season appears to be waning with two straight

weeks of decline in measures of flu activity, according to the latest government data released Friday. The Centers for Disease

U.S. flu activity fell for a second week. But experts worry the season is far from over

Control and Prevention posted data — for flu activity through last week — that showed a big drop in flu hospitalizations and a smaller but significant decrease in medical office visits due to flu-like illness. The number of states reporting high flu activity also fell — from 44 to 36.

Meanwhile, there have not been large surges in two other winter menaces — COVID-19 and RSV. CDC officials are calling the current respiratory vi-

rus season "moderate." But that doesn't mean the season is over, especially for flu. Second surges in flu activity often occur after the winter holidays.

"We've had other seasons where we've had a peak, it's gone down, but we've nonetheless had a prolonged season," said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious diseases specialist at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee.

"Most of us are crossing our fingers," he added. "But I

don't think we can rely on the concept that flu is abating very early this year."

Medical experts have worried about this season because it has been dominated by a kind of flu virus, called A H3N2, that historically causes the most hospitalizations and deaths in older people. Even more concerning, about 90% of the H3N2 infections analyzed this season were a new strain that differs from the version accounted for in this year's flu shots. □

Trump says he may punish countries with tariffs if they don't back the U.S. controlling Greenland

By DANIEL NIEMANN and DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump suggested Friday that he may punish countries with tariffs if they don't back the U.S. controlling Greenland, a message that came as a bipartisan Congressional delegation sought to lower tensions in the Danish capital.

Trump for months has insisted that the U.S. should control Greenland, a semiautonomous territory of NATO ally Denmark, and said earlier this week that anything less than the Arctic island being in U.S. hands would be "unacceptable."

During an unrelated event at the White House about rural health care, he recounted Friday how he had threatened European allies with tariffs on pharmaceuticals.

"I may do that for Greenland too," Trump said. "I may put a tariff on countries if they don't go along with Greenland, because we need Greenland for national security. So I may do that," he said.

He had not previously mentioned using tariffs to try to force the issue.

Earlier this week, the foreign ministers of Denmark and Greenland met in Washington this week with U.S. Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.



President Donald Trump speaks during an event to promote investment in rural health care in the East Room of the White House, Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, in Washington.

Associated Press

That encounter didn't resolve the deep differences, but did produce an agreement to set up a working group on whose purpose Denmark and the White House then offered sharply diverging public views.

European leaders have insisted that is only for Denmark and Greenland to decide on matters concerning the territory, and Denmark said this week that it was increasing its military presence in Greenland in cooperation with allies.

A relationship that 'we need to nurture'

In Copenhagen, a group of senators and members of the House of Repre-

sentatives met Friday with Danish and Greenlandic lawmakers, and with leaders including Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen. Delegation leader Sen. Chris Coons, a Delaware Democrat, thanked the group's hosts for "225 years of being a good and trusted ally and partner" and said that "we had a strong and robust dialogue about how we extend that into the future."

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, an Alaska Republican, said after meeting lawmakers that the visit reflected a strong relationship over decades and "it is one that we need to nurture." She told report-

ers that "Greenland needs to be viewed as our ally, not as an asset, and I think that's what you're hearing with this delegation."

The tone contrasted with that emanating from the White House. Trump has sought to justify his calls for a U.S. takeover by repeatedly claiming that China and Russia have their own designs on Greenland, which holds vast untapped reserves of critical minerals. The White House hasn't ruled out taking the territory by force.

"We have heard so many lies, to be honest and so much exaggeration on the threats towards Green-

land," said Aaja Chemnitz, a Greenlandic politician and member of the Danish parliament who took part in Friday's meetings. "And mostly, I would say the threats that we're seeing right now is from the U.S. side."

Murkowski emphasized the role of Congress in spending and in conveying messages from constituents.

"I think it is important to underscore that when you ask the American people whether or not they think it is a good idea for the United States to acquire Greenland, the vast majority, some 75%, will say, we do not think that that is a good idea," she said.

Along with Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, a New Hampshire Democrat, Murkowski has introduced bipartisan legislation that would prohibit the use of U.S. Defense or State department funds to annex or take control of Greenland or the sovereign territory of any NATO member state without that ally's consent or authorization from the North Atlantic Council.

Inuit council criticizes White House statements

The dispute is looming large in the lives of Greenlanders. Greenland's prime minister, Jens-Frederik Nielsen, said on Tuesday that "if we have to choose between the United States and Denmark here and now, we choose Denmark. □

Explosion damages homes and injures at least 4 in the Netherlands

UTRECHT, Netherlands (AP)

— An explosion on a residential street in the center of the Dutch city of Utrecht injured at least four people Thursday, an emergency services official said. The cause of the blast was not immediately known.

The explosion, which caused a fire and widespread damage, sent people running into nearby shopping streets. Firefighters tried to douse the

flames but were not immediately able to enter damaged homes because of fears of structural damage. Emergency services spokesman Sjaak Haasnoot said the four people injured were taken to a hospital. The extent of their injuries was not known. It was unclear if there were any casualties.

"It is very difficult at the moment to say how many victims are under the rubble,"

Haasnoot said. "The fire department cannot enter the building because it is still unstable."

Firefighters said they were investigating how they could safely comb through the rubble of the shattered buildings to establish if any people are trapped. Residents whose homes were damaged were being accommodated in a nearby hotel.

Police were investigating,



Firefighters extinguish the fire at the scene of an explosion in Utrecht, Netherlands, Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026.

Associated Press

Utrecht Mayor Sharon Dijksma told reporters.

"This explosion has had a huge impact on the heart

of our city. Everyone is deeply shocked, especially those in the immediate vicinity," Dijksma said. □

Cuba launches mass demonstration to decry U.S. attack on Venezuela and demand Maduro's release

By **ANDREA RODRÍGUEZ**
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Tens of thousands of Cubans demonstrated Friday outside the U.S. Embassy in Havana to decry the killing of 32 Cuban officers in Venezuela and demand that the U.S. government release former Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

They crowded into the open-air "José Martí Anti-Imperialist" plaza across from the embassy in a rally organized by the Cuban government as tensions between Cuba and the U.S. spike following the U.S. attack Jan. 3 on Venezuela. The 32 Cuban officers were part of Maduro's security detail killed during the raid on his residence in Caracas to seize the former leader and bring him to the U.S. to face drug trafficking charges.

"Humanity is experiencing something very complex, and (the U.S.) is governed by a president who considers himself an emperor," said René González, 64, one of the protesters.

"We must show him that



Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel marches during a rally to protest the killing of Cuban officers during the U.S. operation in Venezuela that captured Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in Havana, Cuba, Friday, Jan. 16, 2026.

ideas are worth more than weapons," he said. "This march is a message of our unity. Independence is sacred, and we will defend it tooth and nail if necessary."

Cuba's national anthem rang out at Friday's demonstration as large Cuban

flags waved in the chilly wind and big waves broke nearby along Havana's famed sea wall. Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel shook hands with members of the crowd clad in jackets and scarves before speaking to them.

"The current U.S. admin-

istration has opened the door to an era of barbarism, plunder and neo-fascism," he said.

The demonstration was a show of popular strength after U.S. President Donald Trump recently demanded that Cuba make a deal with him before it is "too

late." He did not explain what kind of deal.

Trump also has said that Cuba will no longer live off Venezuela's oil and money. Experts say the move could have catastrophic consequences since Cuba is already struggling with severe blackouts.

"No one here surrenders," Díaz-Canel said. "The current emperor of the White House and his infamous secretary of state haven't stopped threatening me." Washington has maintained a policy of sanctions against Cuba since the 1960s to pressure the island's government to improve its human rights record, end its one-party communist system and allow democracy. The sanctions have been further tightened during Trump's presidency, suffocating the island's economy.

"Cuba does not have to make any political concessions, and that will never be on the table for negotiations aimed at reaching an understanding between Cuba and the United States," Díaz-Canel said. □

Associated Press

U.K. police chief who recommended ban of soccer fans of Israeli team Maccabi retires

By **PAN PYLAS**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The chief of the British police force that recommended that fans from Israeli soccer team Maccabi Tel Aviv be banned from attending a football match against English Premier League club Aston Villa in Birmingham last year retired Friday following criticism of that decision.

Craig Guildford, the chief constable of West Midlands Police, will step down with immediate effect as the head of the force following mounting pressure for him to quit over the controversy.

"I have come to the conclusion that the political and media frenzy around myself and my position has become detrimental to all the great work undertaken

by my officers and staff in serving communities across the West Midlands," Guildford said.

Guildford's position has been precarious since Wednesday's publication

of a report into the decision to ban Maccabi fans from attending the match at Villa Park on Nov. 6. The report found the decision last year overstated the threat posed by Maccabi

fans and understated the risk to them. Following the publication of what she termed the "damning" report, Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said she had lost confidence in the 52-year-old and urged him to stand down.

"By stepping down, Craig Guildford has done the right thing today," she said after his retirement was announced, adding that the report had "set out a catalogue of failings that have harmed trust in West Midlands Police."

Mahmood said she didn't have the power to fire Guildford as a result of a policy change by the previous Conservative government in 2011, but she was looking to reinstate that power to home secretaries. Currently, locally elected police and crime commis-

sioners have that power. Simon Foster, the police and crime commissioner for the West Midlands, said Guildford had "acted with honor" in stepping down. The Campaign Against Antisemitism called for Foster to resign over failing to sack Guildford.

"His retirement, after the pitiful failure of West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Simon Foster to sack him, should result in the resignation of Foster as well," its chief executive Gideon Falter said.

The ban came at a time of heightened concerns about antisemitism in Britain following a deadly attack on a Manchester synagogue and calls from Palestinians and their supporters for a sports boycott of Israel over the war with Hamas in Gaza. □



Maccabi Tel Aviv's fan is escorted by police ahead of the Europa League soccer match between Aston Villa and Maccabi Tel Aviv in Birmingham, England, Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025.

Associated Press

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our “Dorado”

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the “Dorado”, a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Dorado.

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamentu. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means “very strong”. Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun.



Why it's called Dolphinfish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known among fishermen as an

exciting catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that age. Most become adults

within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too. They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close

or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately recognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female. Therefore, male Dorados are also called “bull Dorado”.

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others. □

Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).

Another treasure of Aruba's beaches: Sea Glass!

(Oranjestad)—It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge” and the huge red anchor close to “Grapefield” beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the

product of a very long and interesting process.

It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is “Sea glass.”

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass,

household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown, green and clear glass.

If you like to see the sea glass



for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □



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National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the bright blue Cododo or mighty Warawara.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: A majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heading back to the ocean after laying her eggs during breeding season. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of

the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters



(617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, or 4x4 vehicle. As of 2020, ATV's and UTVs are not allowed in the park due to its significant impact on nature.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites

within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

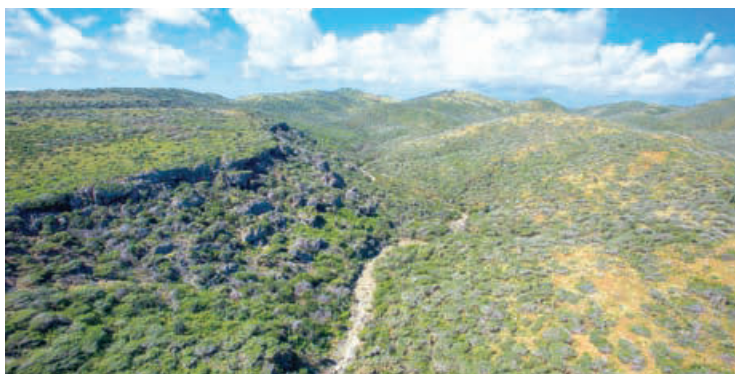
These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

The Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF), formerly known as Aruba National Park Foundation, manages

the national park. This foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of ACF. In 2019, preliminary management plan for marine were introduced for Parke Marino to conserve reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests and in 2020 ACF was given additional management areas such as the Saliñas (Druij, Malmok, Cerca, Palm Beach, Bubali etc.) and also additional areas such as Rooi Manonchi, Ser'I Teishi etc. Managed areas can be seen here: <https://acf.aw/>.

Visit the National Park Arikok to see the wonder of Aruba's nature. The visitor center in San Fuego and entrance in Vader Piet (San Nicolas) is open daily from 8:00 AM to 16:00 PM. Contact the ACF via e-mail, info@acf.aw or call +297 585 1234 for more information. □



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Tumba rhythm in Aruba's Carnival



2007. Eugene was Aruba's Tumba King 2007. From L2R are Robert Jean D'or, Papito Rafael, Eugene Albertsz, Elia Isernia, Juni de Freitas and Jurdany Koolman. Eugene before also won 5th Place Tumba in 2005.

(Oranjestad)—Many consider 'tumba' as a native style of music indigenous to Curaçao and Bonaire, neighboring islands of Aruba. Tumba was first brought to the region by enslaved Africans in the 17th century. The heart of the music was based on the unusual drumming patterns of the tambur rhythm.

Today other instruments and Latin influences play a role in tumba music and on the ABC islands the songs are sung mostly in the local language of Papiamentu. Unlike calypso and roadmarch tunes, the tumba song is played all year round, but because of their popularity and roots in the Dutch Antilles, tumba songs are especially revered in Aruba's Carnival.

Tumba during Carnival often incorporates a bit of political and social satire reminiscent of Calypso style but reflects a danceable beat. Aruba's tumba rhythm is more melodic and for Carnival the lyrics are dedicated to the

celebration.

The first Tumba Contest was held in 1971 for Carnival 17 at which Casin Giel was crowned as Aruba's first Carnival Tumba King. Many remember famous Juancho Kock and even after his retirement, he has always remained an idol. Oth-



2008. Guillfred: Tumba Contest with 'Caya ta warda'.



2008. Dancers for Guillfred's show at the Grand Tumba Contest.



2004. From L2R are: Juancho Kock, Edwin Zichem and Robert Jean D'or at the Tumba Contest for Carnival 50 in 2004. The contest was dedicated to Juancho amongst other great musicians.

er popular musicians on stage are Edwin Zichem and Robert Jean d'Or, not to forget Ito Dania and Reginald 'Papito' Rafael. Papito in 2000 won his fifth title with his tumba Den 'meimei' and since then, he is even with Robert Jean d'Or in number of titles won.

The subsequent generations include Rodrick Franken, who up until 2020 has seven titles to his name ranging from three in the Children's, one in the Youth and three in the Grand Tumba Festival. Rodrick Franken is the only singer ever who has won the title in all three age categories. A strong contender is Jerrino Ridderstap. Jerrino, with four titles to his name, is a four-time Aruba's Carnival Tumba King, while Rodrick is a three-time winner of Aruba's Grand Tumba Contest.

Tumba 'pabou di brug'

Even though the tumba is rarely heard during the parades, it is as much a part of Carnival as the roadmarch and calypso. Carnival tumba songs are played everywhere throughout the entire Carnival season and the Tumba Contest creates a thrill especially on the west side of the island.

While calypso and roadmarch are more distinctly bound to San Nicolas with the contest taking



2006. Guillfred: Tumba Contest with 'Mo Chai'.

place there on the east side of the island, tumba is linked to the west side and Oranjestad, where the festival was held in 1971 for the first time.

San Nicolas goes Tumba

However, in 2019 for Carnival 65 the Tumba Contest was held at the Carnival Village in San Nicolas for the first time. The Carnival Village was finished in 2014 and the first Carnival activity was held there on the 11th of November 2014, named 'Legends Award' by S.M.A.C. □

Source: Aruba's Carnival History by Friedrich A. Van der Hans.



2007. Eugene during the Grand Tumba Contest.

Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is “Bon bini.” Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say “hello” in Papiamento—at least not officially. We often just use the English “hello” or “hey”, or Dutch “hallo” to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with “con bay?” or “con ta?” Con bay is a shortened version of “con ta bay?”, which essentially



means “how are you?”

The word “con” in Papiamento means “how?” and is pronounced with a rounder “o” sounds, like in the English word “cone”. “Ta bay” refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word “ayo” (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use “te oro”, which means “see you later”.

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word “bon” means “good”, and while “dia” does not directly mean “morning” in English, it is used

often to refer to the morning time.

Bon tardi

In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use “bon tardi” to greet people, which means “good afternoon”. “Tardi” actually comes from the word “atardi”, which directly translates to “afternoon”. However, the shortened “tardi” is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

Bon nochi.

You guessed it, “bon nochi” means “good night”. Just like “tardi”, “nochi” is actually the shortened version of the word “anochi”.

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are “si” and our no’s are “no”. Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say “se”, which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation.

However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is “danki”, which means literally “thank you”. “Danki” is derived from the Dutch word “bedankt”. Though we don’t really have a translation for “I appreciate it” in English, we do use “masha danki” to convey the message. “Masha” means “a lot” or “very”, so “masha danki” means “thank you very much”. □

Ayo & Casibari: Aruba’s famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your “off-road” trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation

is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding “mondi”*. This is also one of the few sites to

contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompa-



nying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south.

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are

no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don’t have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi! □



Keeping up with the conniving spider... Nanzi fools Cha Tiger

Many years ago, Cha* Tiger did not live in the mondi*, but among civil society. Back then, he was feared by everyone. When he walked past in a halfway, everyone around would make room immediately, that's how ferocious he was.

One night a group of friends was hanging out and they were talking about Cha Tiger. "You know, that tiger sure is incredibly strong and I don't trust him one bit. He probably eats a lot too. Oh, I'm so scared of him!" one person said.

"Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks, thinking how silly it was for him to say such things.

"You, Nanzi? You are such a liar! He'll stomp you into next Tuesday, stop saying such nonsense."

"I'm not lying!" Nanzi defended himself. "He'll take me all the way to Shon Arei*."

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is. Cha Tiger walked past.

"Hey, Cha Tiger!" someone called to him. He growled at the person. "Hey, Cha Tiger! Listen!"

"Nanzi made fun of you, said he wasn't afraid of you at all! Said he could sit on your back and that you weren't as strong as we think you are."

Cha Tiger stopped dead in his tracks, furious. "Well, I'll set him straight!" Cha Tiger ran toward Nanzi's house, prepared to teach Nanzi a painful lesson. The entire way there he was growling and yelling, making everyone around aware what was going to happen. They all ran inside and peaked through the blinds to see the fight that was going to unfold.

Nanzi also heard Cha Tiger's screams, slowly getting closer and closer. He was terrified. His face turned pale, and his teeth started chattering like someone with a high fever. Sweat was dripping down his forehead.

When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi asked, his voice trembling. "I Heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger

retorted, still fuming.

"Me? Talk bad about you?" Nanzi chuckled nervously. "People are such liars, I swear. Can't you see how sick I am here?" Nanzi took a pause, like someone who couldn't breathe properly. In his case of course, it was probably from extreme fear. "Shi Maria* wanted to take me to Shon Arei, where someone can heal me from my illness." Still wrapped up in his act, Nanzi turned back face down. "Me, a father of nine little children..."

Cha Tiger was shocked. Nanzi looked absolutely terrible, God knows he was dying.

"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your back and take me to Shon Arei, I can barely walk," Nanzi pleaded. Cha Tiger took pity on the spider and agreed to do this favor. Nanzi climbed on the tiger's back, letting his body fall down and grabbing on to Cha Tiger's neck. "Would you mind putting a rope in your mouth so I can hold on? That way I can sit up straight," Nanzi asked. Cha Tiger growled in reluctance but said OK. And so they made their way to Shon Arei.

Once they started traveling through the mondi, Nanzi turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch.

Eventually they made it out the mondi to where everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhausted, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

"See, Shon Arei? Cha Tiger ain't nothing but a big donkey!" Nanzi said proudly. Everyone around cheered: "Hurray, Nanzi!" Poor Cha Tiger was so embarrassed that he was fooled by the conniving spider, and so he ran into the mondi to hide. To this day, it's said that the tiger still hides away in the mondi.

Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.

Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife.

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nék Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

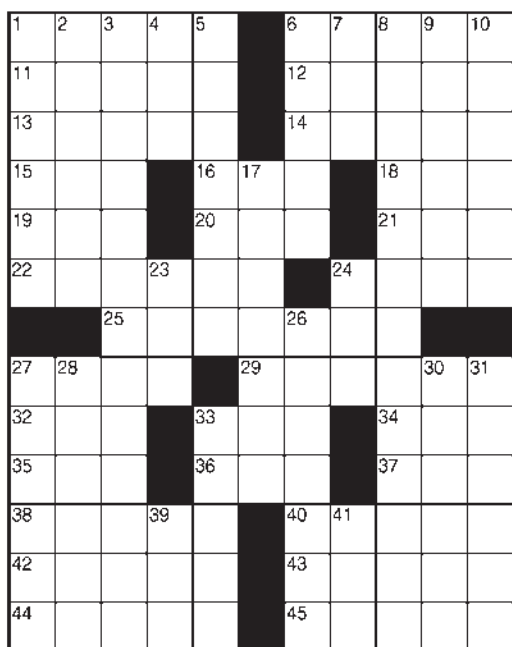
ACROSS

- 40 TV's
1 Wise ones
6 Kind of doors or oven
11 Juan Perón's wife
12 Corn-husker city
13 Fleet-based
14 Fishing spots
15 Yale rooter
16 Even score
18 Auditor's org.
19 Swindle
20 They hold power
21 Goose egg
22 "Life of Pi" director
24 Screen-writer James
25 Deluge
27 Santa sound
29 Prefer to
32 Put away
33 Urgent call
34 Seth's mother
35 Hold up
36 Due follower
37 Bridge action
38 Unfettered

DOWN

- 41 Dev of "Slumdog Millionaire"
6 Parcels out
7 Thurman Theater setting
8 Falling for something
9 Sweet-heart, in Paris
10 Nuisance
17 Wrong
23 John, to Ringo
24 Leaf carrier
26 Abated
27 Apollo
28 "Becket" actor
30 Show clearly
31 Bridge do-over
33 Girder material
39 Health retreat
41 "Give — rest!"

ELBOW SQUAD
LIEGE LUSTY
OPERA AISLE
REVAMP
ESS ITS BRO
MUTANT REIN
BEERGARDENS
EDIT COARSE
DEN RHO BET
SEETHE
JAPAN FALSE
EXALT OLLIE
TENTS ROYAL



1-27

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-27

CRYPTOQUOTE

LKKJ PZFNHJM, LKKJ AKKBM

XHJ X MUNNTW OKHMOFNHON:

EGFM FM EGN FJNXU UFPN.

— IXZB EVXFH

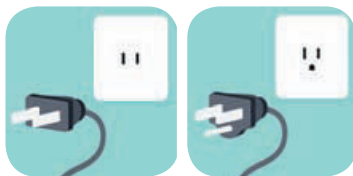
Cryptoquote: YOU CAN'T GET TOO MUCH WINTER IN THE WINTER. — ROBERT FROST

Cruise ship Schedule: Jan. 13 - 18 2026

		ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	13	CARNIVAL MAGIC	07.00	16.00	B 1
		CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	23.00	C 1
		SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I 1
WED	14	ROTTERDAM	08.00	17.00	B 1
		BRITANNIA	07.00	18.00	C 1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I 1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E 1
THU	15	COSTA PACIFICA	07.00	22.00	B 1
		CARNIVAL VENEZIA	09.00	22.00	C 1
		NORWEGIAN SKY	11.00	20.00	I 1
SAT	17	STAR PRIDE	06.00	16.00	B 1
		ZUIDERDAM	08.00	17.00	C 1
		AIDAPERLA	09.00	22.00	I 1
SUN	18	MARELLA DISCOVERY	08.00	20.00	B 1
		OCEANIA INSIGNIA	11.30	22.00	C 1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E -

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

		8			9			7
	3	1		7				
		9		5	8			
3			9	8	1		4	
		4						
	1		2	3				8
	4	2				7	8	1
			8				3	4
8	7			1			2	

Difficulty: ★★★★★

1/17

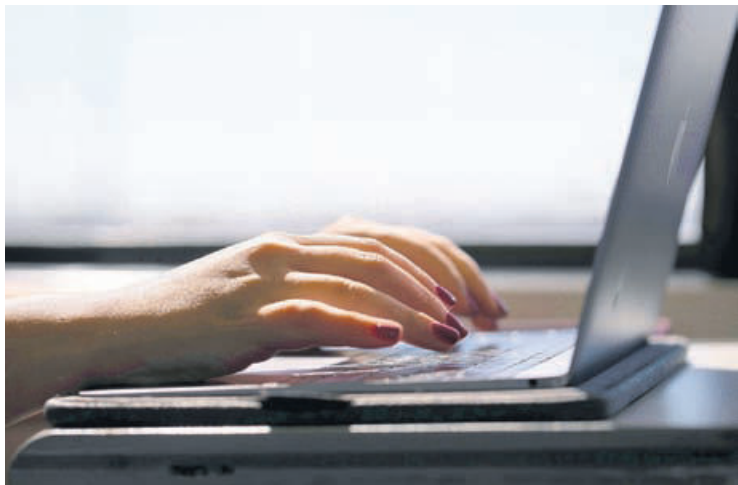
Answer to previous puzzle

9	1	5	4	8	2	6	7	3
2	4	3	6	7	9	1	8	5
8	6	7	1	3	5	2	4	9
7	2	1	8	6	3	9	5	4
4	5	9	2	1	7	3	6	8
6	3	8	9	5	4	7	1	2
5	9	6	7	2	8	4	3	1
1	8	2	3	4	6	5	9	7
3	7	4	5	9	1	8	2	6

Difficulty: ★★★★★

1/16

One Tech Tip: Californians have a new privacy tool for deleting their data



This May 18, 2021, photo shows a woman typing on a laptop on a train in New Jersey.

Associated Press

By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

New year, new privacy rules. At least for Californians.

Since Jan. 1, residents of the Golden State can use a new tool to request removal of their personal information held by more than 500 data brokers.

The Delete Request and Opt-out Platform, or DROP, is a simple-to-use tool that lets people submit requests for their personal data to be scrubbed from databases.

It's the first system of its kind in the United States, and launched after legislation that expanded consumer privacy rights and added obligations for companies. Privacy advocates say DROP is a useful for helping people reclaim some of their privacy from the data broker industry, which collects scraps of personal information to sell for marketing and other purposes. Here's a guide to how it works:

Submit a request

Go to the official DROP website at privacy.ca.gov/drop. Read through the terms of use before accepting.

You'll have two ways to verify you're a California resident and set up your profile, either by filling in your personal information or by using a login.gov account.

Most people will use the first option, which requires name, date of birth and address, and a phone number or email address

to receive a verification code.

If you opt to use login.gov, you'll need to upload a copy of your passport, driver's license or state ID.

Next, fill out your deletion request with your name, birthdate and ZIP code. You'll also again need to provide a phone number or an email address, to receive another verification code. Perhaps you went by a different name previously, such as a maiden name? You can add multiple versions of all the information types, except your birthdate. "The more information you provide, the more likely your personal data will be deleted," the DROP website says.

Identifiers

There are also fields to add a "unique identifier," either in the form of a Mobile

Advertising ID for iOS or Android devices, a connected TV ID, or a vehicle identification number, or VIN.

Android identifiers are found in the settings menu. Apple doesn't allow users to find the code, but it can be turned off in settings. More information is available on the CPPA website. Most people don't have these numbers at hand. You can skip this section and add them later.

Timeline

While people can sign up now, data brokers won't start deleting information until Aug. 1. After that they will process deletion requests every 45 days. Data brokers that fail to comply face fines of \$200 a day.

Perhaps you moved to a new house or bought a new phone or car after you filed your request. You can always go back to your profile to update it with more information and submit a fresh deletion request at any time.

Data brokers

Data brokers are shadowy intermediaries that sweep up scraps of personal information about consumers and package them for sale in vast databases with millions of records, often without consent.

They data is bought from businesses that people deal with, scraped from websites or captured with

tracking tools on mobile devices.

Buyers could include legit groups such as landlords and insurance companies, or "malicious actors" like fraudsters, hate groups, domestic abusers or hostile foreign governments, the California privacy watchdog says.

"While some of this data is used to provide you with personalized services such as targeted advertising, misuse of this data can lead to identity theft, stalking or other harmful outcomes," it said.

Types of data

Personal information collected by brokers includes your online purchases, web browsing history, employment data and IP address. It could also include sensitive information like a social security or passport number, driver's license, precise geolocation and info on health and sexual orientation. □



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
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Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figueroa
Oriana Geerman

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

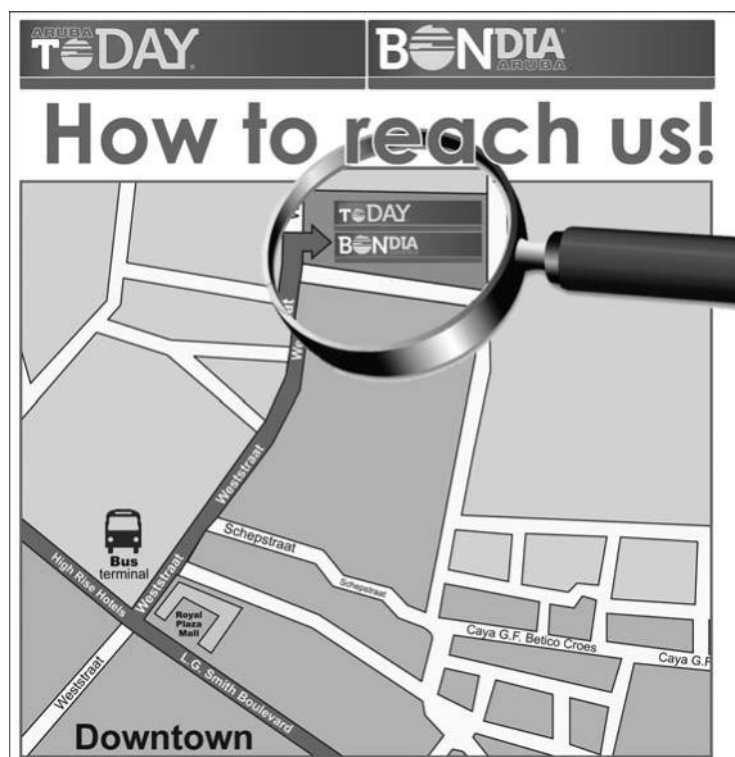
Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
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E: news@arubatoday.com
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

How the White House and governors want to fix AI-driven power shortages and price spikes

By BEN FINLEY AND MARC LEVY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration and a bipartisan group of governors on Friday tried to step up pressure on the operator of the nation's largest electric grid to take urgent steps to boost power supplies and keep electricity bills from rising even higher. Administration officials said doing so is essential to win the artificial intelligence race against China, even as voters raise concerns about the enormous amount of power data centers use and analysts warn of the growing possibility of blackouts in the mid-Atlantic grid in the coming years. "We know that with the demands of AI and the power and the productivity that comes with that, it's going to transform every job and every company and every industry," Interior Secretary Doug Burgum told reporters at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, next to the White House. "But we need to be able to power that in the race that we are in against China."



Meta's Stanton Springs Data Center is seen Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026, in Newton County, East of Atlanta.

The White House and governors want the mid-Atlantic grid operator to hold a power auction for tech companies to bid on contracts to build new power plants, so that data center operators, not regular consumers, pay for their power needs. They also want the operator, PJM Interconnection, to contain consumer costs by extending a cap that it imposed last year, under pressure from governors, that limited the increase of wholesale electricity payments to power

plant owners. The cap applied to payments through mid-2028. "Our message today is just to try and push PJM ... to say, 'we know the answer.' The answer is we need to be able to build new generation to accommodate new jobs and new growth," Energy Secretary Chris Wright said. Governors Glenn Youngkin of Virginia, Wes Moore of Maryland and Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania appeared with Burgum and Wright and expressed frustration with PJM.

"We need for PJM to take action, we need for PJM to take it seriously," Moore told reporters. Youngkin called it a "massive, massive crisis." PJM wasn't invited to the event. However, PJM's board is nearing the release of its own plan after months of work and will review recommendations from the White House and governors to assess how they align with its decision, a spokesperson said Friday. The White House and gov-

Associated Press

ernors don't have direct authority over PJM, but grid operators are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which is chaired by an appointee of President Donald Trump. Trump and governors are under pressure to insulate consumers and businesses alike from the costs of feeding Big Tech's data centers. Meanwhile, more Americans are falling behind on their electricity bills as rates rise faster than inflation in many parts of the U.S. In some areas, bills have risen because of strained natural gas supplies or expensive upgrades to transmission systems, to harden them against more extreme weather or wildfires. But energy-hungry data centers are also a factor in some areas, consumer advocates say. Ratepayers in the mid-Atlantic grid which encompasses all or parts of 13 states stretching from New Jersey to Illinois, as well as Washington, D.C. are already paying billions more to underwrite power supplies to data centers, some of which haven't been built yet, analysts say. □

Survey says slowing economy is the No. 1 worry for U.S. businesses in China, not trade friction

By CHAN HO-HIM
AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — U.S. businesses are more concerned about China's slowing economy than

trade friction, according to a survey by the American Chamber of Commerce in China released Friday. Of 368 companies responding to the survey,

64% viewed slowing growth in the world's second largest economy as their top worry, while 58% cited U.S.-China trade tensions as a key challenge. One reason for that may be that many U.S. companies have businesses focused on China's huge market of about 1.4 billion people that do not rely on exports back to the U.S. Economists expect China's economy to slow further this year after expanding at about a 5% annual pace in 2025. Growth in exports outpaced imports last year, leading to a record trade surplus of nearly \$1.2 trillion. The report said business sentiment has improved

from last year. More than half of those responding estimated that they made a profit in 2025, up from less than half last year. It has been a rocky ride for American businesses in recent years, especially after President Donald Trump returned to office nearly a year ago. A year-long trade truce reached between Washington and Beijing, after Trump imposed tariffs of up to 145% on imports from China has alleviated some of the uncertainty for businesses. Trump is expected to visit Beijing in April and Chinese leader Xi Jinping may visit the U.S. this year. Overall, foreign investment in China has slowed. Gov-

ernment data show foreign direct investment was at 693 billion yuan (\$99 billion) in the first 11 months of 2025, down 7.5% from the previous year. "Our companies have to live with the political realities, but they're focused on the business opportunities," Michael Hart, president of AmCham China, said at a media briefing. "We have felt that the Chinese government does want foreign investment, they do want American investment." The survey showed that 48% of those responding expressed optimism about growing their markets in China over the next two years, up from 37% the previous year. □



A woman reacts for a photo near the words "Get Rich" in Beijing, China, Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026.

Associated Press

Madison Keys pictures herself as a champion again at the Australian Open

By JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Madison Keys planned to walk into the player tunnel at Rod Laver Arena in a quiet moment when nobody was watching, and take a photo of her name listed with the other champions at the Australian Open.

After beating top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka in last year's final at Melbourne Park to win her first Grand Slam title, Keys pictured the moment she'd return to the stadium for the first time as defending champion.

"I've always kind of remembered walking through that tunnel and seeing all the names," she said Friday, two days before the first major of the year starts. "It was a little bit of a pinch-me moment where I was like, 'Wow, I'm going to be up there.'"

"I have not seen my name



Aryna Sabalenka, left, of Belarus is congratulated by Madison Keys of the United States following their quarterfinal match at the Brisbane International in Brisbane, Australia, Friday, Jan. 9, 2026.

Associated Press

in the tunnel yet. I hope I can go in there when there's no one else so I can take a picture and send it to my mom."

Before facing the media in Melbourne, she couldn't help but notice other evidence at the venue of her breakthrough triumph.

"There's a really cool photo of me holding the trophy," Keys said. "Getting to see those, it's something you dream of in your career."

The 30-year-old American said it was easy to look back almost 12 months and think everything worked to perfection, but "also you think about, 'Wow, I almost lost.'"

"I was match point down. So many three-set matches.

There were some ugly matches. I think it kind of just makes everything a little bit better just because it wasn't issue-free."

Keys won a tune-up tournament in Adelaide in 2025 before ending Sabalenka's 20-match winning streak at the Australian Open. At 29, she was the tournament's oldest first-time women's champion. She also set a record as the player with the longest gap between their first two Grand Slam finals her first was the 2017 U.S. Open. The Australian Open victory launched her into a Top 5 ranking the following month. □

CFP championship game prediction: Indiana will complete perfect season with its 1st national title

By ERIC OLSON

AP College Football Writer

Miami plays Indiana in the College Football Playoff championship game on Monday night, with BetMGM Sportsbook listing Indiana as an 8.5-point favorite as the weekend arrived.

Will it be a blowout?

The top-seeded Hoosiers (15-0) have beaten Alabama (38-3) and Oregon (56-22) in the CFP as they pursue the program's first championship. That's a winning margin of 34.5 points.

The 10th-seeded Hurricanes (13-2) have beaten Texas A&M (10-3), Ohio State (24-14) and Mississippi (31-27) on their way to the title game, where they will play for their sixth national championship since the poll era began in 1936. That's a winning margin of 7 points, but the point is that the 'Canes are used to tighter games of late and maybe that will serve them well.

How Miami can win

Carson Beck must keep doing what he is doing. His passing numbers the last three games don't jump off the page, but he is 18 of 26 on third downs with 15 conversions, according to Sportradar, and he led the late 15-play, 75-yard touchdown drive to beat Ole Miss in the semifinals.

The 'Canes need Mark Fletcher Jr. to dent an Indiana defense that's given up just 2.7 yards per carry in two playoff games and has allowed fewer than 100 yards rushing in 13 of 15 games. Fletcher has been at his best lately, averaging 6.8 yards per carry and averaging better than 130 yards per game in the CFP.

Miami can't win without getting pressure on Fernando Mendoza. The 'Canes lead the nation in sacks, and they recorded a combined 12 against Texas A&M and Ohio State before getting to Trinidad Chambliss just once in the

semifinal. Mendoza can extend plays, but he's not the scrambler Chambliss is. The 'Canes also have to play a clean game. They committed 10 penalties against Ole Miss, including three false starts, a roughing the passer, targeting, personal foul and pass interference.

How Indiana can win

It starts with Mendoza, naturally. The Heisman Trophy winner threw eight touchdown passes and no interceptions against Alabama and Oregon, but now he faces the nation's most ferocious pass rush. His sack rate of 6% is on par with the Bowl Subdivision average, but in some games he has had a tendency to take them in bunches. This can't be one of those games.

Roman Hemby and Kaelon Black are a terrific 1-2 punch at running back and can take some of the heat off Mendoza if there's room to roam. Top receivers Omar Cooper Jr., Elijah Sarratt and Charlie

Becker will go against a Miami secondary that will be short-handed for the first half because of Xavier Lucas's targeting ejection against Ole Miss.

The defense must keep Fletcher under control, get creative with blitzes against one of the nation's best offensive lines and make sure to contain flashy freshman Malachi Toney when he gets the ball in the open field.

The pick

Both teams are riding storybook runs.

Indiana was still the officially the worst team in Bowl Subdivision history in terms of overall losses just a couple of months ago. Miami, the brash bully fallen on lean times, can return to the top in its home stadium.

This story has a crimson-and-cream ending: INDIANA wins, 31-21. □



Indiana quarterback Fernando Mendoza (15) celebrates after the Peach Bowl NCAA college football playoff semifinal against Oregon, Friday, Jan. 9, 2026, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Bo Bichette and the New York Mets agree to a \$126 million, 3-year contract, AP source says

By **MIKE FITZPATRICK**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bo Bichette and the New York Mets agreed Friday to a \$126 million, three-year contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal was subject to a successful physical and had not been announced.

A two-time All-Star at shortstop with the Toronto Blue Jays, Bichette will move to third base with the Mets, who have Francisco Lindor at shortstop. Bichette has never played a professional game at the hot corner. Bichette can opt out of



Toronto Blue Jays' Bo Bichette celebrates his three run home run against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the third inning in Game 7 of baseball's World Series, Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025, in Toronto. Associated Press

Juan Soto. Because of his inexperience at third, however, Bichette becomes the latest question mark in the field for New York even though Stearns has insisted the team must improve its defense and is determined to do so. Polanco has one pitch of major league experience at first base, where he and Mark Vientos, previously a third baseman, are the leading candidates to replace Alonso. New York had planned to start Brett Baty at third, where he provides a strong glove. Baty, who also has experience at second base, is viewed as a versatile defender who could see time in the outfield and perhaps at first.

Or, the Mets could look to trade Baty for pitching or outfield help. Gold Glove winner Marcus Semien is set to play second after arriving from Texas in a November trade for Nimmo.

Bichette batted .311 with 18 home runs, 94 RBIs and an .840 OPS in 139 games for the Blue Jays last year. He homered off Shohei Ohtani in Game 7 of the World Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Late last season, Bichette sprained his left knee in a Sept. 6 collision with New York Yankees catcher Austin Wells, keeping the infielder out of the lineup until the World Series. He returned for Game 1 against the Dodgers and played second base for the first time in six years.

Bichette led the American League in hits in 2021 and 2022. He finished second in the major leagues in batting average last season to Yankees slugger Aaron Judge. Bichette turned down a \$22,025,000 qualifying offer from the Blue Jays in November, so they would receive an extra draft pick in July after the fourth round if he completes his deal with the Mets. New York would forfeit its second- and fifth-highest draft picks, along with \$1 million in 2027 international signing bonus pool allocation. □

the deal after the first or second season to become a free agent again. He would receive \$47 million for one year and \$89 million for two years, the person said.

The deal does not contain any deferred money and Bichette gets a full no-trade provision. His \$42 million average annual value ties for the sixth-highest in baseball history.

It was the latest big development in an eventful offseason for the Mets, who angered fans by letting popular slugger Pete Alonso and star closer Edwin Díaz leave in free agency. President of baseball operations David Stearns also traded two other stalwarts in outfielder Brandon Nimmo and versatile veteran Jeff McNeil both homegrown players.

New York signed closer Devin Williams to a \$51 million, three-year contract, infielder Jorge Polanco to a \$40 million, two-year deal and reliever Luke Weaver to a \$22 million, two-year agreement.

Although he lacks Alonso's prodigious power, Bichette is a proven hitter with lightning-fast hands and a penchant for line-drive doubles. He would give the Mets a dangerous right-handed bat to help complement lefty slugger

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